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14P88

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/078,350 Confirmation No. 5054

Applicant : M. ASANO et al

Filed : February 21, 2002

Title : STORAGE OPERATIONAL SYSTEM AND METHOD OF PROVIDING THE STORAGE RENTAL SERVICE

TC/AU : 3629

Examiner : N. Vig **NO FEE REQUIRED**

Docket No. : NIT-331

Customer No.: 24956

Commissioner for Patents
Mail Stop DD
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (IDS)
UNDER § 1.97 AND § 1.98

Sir:

1. This IDS should be considered:

(a) when filed within three months of the filing date of the present application, or within three months of the filing date of the National Stage as set forth in § 1.491 in an international application, or before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits, whichever occurs last;

(b) when filed before the mailing date of either a Final Rejection under § 1.113 or a Notice of Allowance under § 1.311, whichever occurs first and when 1(a) does not apply. For this purpose, there is included herein either a certification in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box), or a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 is enclosed, or if not see section 5 below);

(c) when filed prior to the payment of the Issue Fee, when 1(a)-(b) do not apply, and when a certification is included in section 4 below (included when indicated by a marked box); then the Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) and request(s) consideration of this IDS, and provided herewith is a fee of \$180.00 (a Credit Card

Payment Form in the amount of \$180.00 to cover the petition fee, or if not see section 5 below).

2. When 1(a)-(c) do not apply, then it is requested that this IDS be placed in the file.

3. Listing of the information submitted is on the attached Form PTO-1449, which forms a part of this IDS. A copy of each listed document is enclosed when needed.

4. The undersigned hereby states:

(a) that each item of information contained in this IDS was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, as indicated on the copy of the communication submitted herewith, which communication was dated September 5, 2006, not more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS; or

(b) that no item of information contained in this IDS was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application or, to the knowledge of the undersigned after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this IDS.

5. If a fee or additional fee is required, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fee or additional fee that may be required and credit any excess to Deposit Account No. 50-1417.

6. If the PTO determines that part(s) of the required content is inadvertently omitted, then it is requested that the Applicant(s) be given additional time and specific identification of such omission(s) to enable full compliance.

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINOLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.

By
Shrinath Malur
Reg. No. 34,663
(703) 684-1120

FORM PTO-1449
(REV. 7-80)U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF DOCUMENTS CITED BY APPLICANT
(Use several sheets if necessary)ATTY. DOCKET NO.
NIT-331SERIAL NO.
10/078,350APPLICANT
M. ASANO et alFILING DATE
February 21, 2002GROUP
3629

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| * EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE (If Appropriate) |
|--------------------|----------|------|------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
| AA | | | | | | |
| AB | | | | | | |
| AC | | | | | | |
| AD | | | | | | |
| AE | | | | | | |
| AF | | | | | | |
| AG | | | | | | |
| AH | | | | | | |
| AI | | | | | | |
| AJ | | | | | | |
| AK | | | | | | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | DOCUMENT | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES | NO |
|----|-------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| AL | 2001-014021 | 01/19/01 | JP (with English Abstract) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| AM | 04-077861 | 03/11/92 | JP (with English Abstract) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| AN | 11-259319 | 09/24/99 | JP (with English Abstract) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| AO | 11-212930 | 08/06/99 | JP (with English Abstract) | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| AP | | | | | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

| | |
|----------|--|
| AR | Ryota Tamaoki, "taitousuru 'storage service provider' disk wo net de jikangashi", NIKKEI COMPUTER, Nikkei Business Publications, Inc., No. 526, July 16, 2001, pp. 30-32. (Discussed in English translation of foreign Office Action) |
| | |
| AS | |
| | |
| AT | |
| | |
| EXAMINER | DATE CONSIDERED |

* EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.